

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawai'i's
2 traditional farming systems, such as loko i'a (fishponds), māla
3 (cultivated gardens), and lo'i (irrigated patches), were
4 important agricultural technologies and once sustained a
5 thriving and robust island community. The legislature further
6 finds that these traditional Hawaiian farming systems still play
7 a critical role in Hawai'i and should be encouraged to promote
8 greater self-sufficiency, crop diversity, and food security.
9 Moreover, traditional Hawaiian crops like kalo, 'uala (sweet
10 potato), limu (various seaweeds), 'awa, hō'i'o (large native
11 fern), and 'olena (turmeric) that were cultivated using these
12 traditional Hawaiian farming techniques continue to be important
13 agricultural products for food, medicine, and cultural practices
14 today.

15 Prioritizing traditional agricultural techniques such as
16 traditional Hawaiian farming is increasingly viewed as good
17 policy. The United Nations Commission on Trade and Development



1 urges nation states to support the development of sustainable
2 small-scale farms and traditional farming systems to achieve
3 food security, particularly in light of climate change.
4 Supporting traditional farming is also consistent with the
5 recommendations of the taro security and purity task force's
6 2010 legislative report *E ola hou ke kalo; ho'i hou ka 'āina*
7 *lē'ia: The taro lives; abundance returns to the land*. The
8 report emphasizes the need to invest in traditional farming and
9 crops to perpetuate culture, and to support disaster
10 preparedness and food security in our islands.

11 The legislature finds that article XI, section 3 of the
12 Constitution of the State of Hawai'i requires the legislature to
13 provide standards and criteria to increase Hawai'i's
14 agricultural self-sufficiency.

15 The purpose of this Act is to update the State's
16 agricultural planning statute to add the growth and development
17 of traditional Hawaiian farming systems and traditional Hawaiian
18 crops, as well as the growth and development of small-scale
19 farms, as agricultural objectives of the State.

20 SECTION 2. Section 226-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, is
21 amended to read as follows:



1 "§226-7 Objectives and policies for the economy--

2 **agriculture.** (a) Planning for the State's economy with regard
3 to agriculture shall be directed towards achievement of the
4 following objectives:

5 (1) Viability of Hawaii's sugar and pineapple industries.

6 (2) Growth and development of diversified agriculture
7 throughout the State.

8 (3) An agriculture industry that continues to constitute a
9 dynamic and essential component of Hawaii's strategic,
10 economic, and social well-being.

11 (b) To achieve the agriculture objectives, it shall be the
12 policy of this State to:

13 (1) Establish a clear direction for Hawaii's agriculture
14 through stakeholder commitment and advocacy.

15 (2) Encourage agriculture by making the best use of
16 natural resources.

17 (3) Provide the governor and the legislature with
18 information and options needed for prudent decision-
19 making for the development of agriculture.



- 1 (4) Establish strong relationships between the
2 agricultural and visitor industries for mutual
3 marketing benefits.
- 4 (5) Foster increased public awareness and understanding of
5 the contributions and benefits of agriculture as a
6 major sector of Hawaii's economy.
- 7 (6) Seek the enactment and retention of federal and state
8 legislation that benefits Hawaii's agricultural
9 industries.
- 10 (7) Strengthen diversified agriculture by developing an
11 effective promotion, marketing, and distribution
12 system between Hawaii's food producers and consumers
13 in the State, nation, and world.
- 14 (8) Support research and development activities that
15 strengthen economic productivity in agriculture,
16 stimulate greater efficiency, and enhance the
17 development of new products and agricultural by-
18 products.
- 19 (9) Enhance agricultural growth by providing public
20 incentives and encouraging private initiatives.



- 1 (10) Assure the availability of agriculturally suitable
2 lands with adequate water to accommodate present and
3 future needs.
- 4 (11) Increase the attractiveness and opportunities for an
5 agricultural education and livelihood.
- 6 (12) In addition to the State's priority on food, expand
7 Hawaii's agricultural base by promoting growth and
8 development of flowers, tropical fruits and plants,
9 livestock, feed grains, forestry, food crops,
10 aquaculture, and other potential enterprises.
- 11 (13) Promote economically competitive activities that
12 increase Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency,
13 including the increased purchase and use of Hawaii-
14 grown food and food products by residents, businesses,
15 and governmental bodies as defined under section 103D-
16 104.
- 17 (14) Promote and assist in the establishment of sound
18 financial programs for diversified agriculture.
- 19 (15) Institute and support programs and activities to
20 assist the entry of displaced agricultural workers
21 into alternative agricultural or other employment.



(16) Facilitate the transition of agricultural lands in economically nonfeasible agricultural production to economically viable agricultural uses.

(17) Perpetuate, promote, and increase traditional Hawaiian farming, such as the use of loko i'a, mala, and irrigated lo'i, and traditional Hawaiian crops, such as kalo, 'uala, and ulu.

(18) Increase and develop small-scale farms."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:


By Request



Report Title:

OHA Package; Agriculture

Description:

Includes traditional Hawaiian farming and small-scale farming to the objectives and policies for the economy.

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